



# New Hope Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day  
December 14, 2025

Welcome to New Hope Church - we're glad you are here to worship with us today! If you're not a member, we invite you to join our church family.

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

### Prelude

### Greeting and Announcements

### Advent Reading

Light the Candles of Hope, Peace, and Joy

*(Response: Glory to God Hymnal #84, verse 1)*

**P: Creator of the stars of night,  
Your people's everlasting light,  
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,  
We pray you hear us when we call.**

### Response

“Joy in Judea”

Choir

† *Indicates where those who are able may stand.*

## † Opening Sentences

*(Isaiah 35:1-2; Matthew 11:4-5)*

L: What if joy were to break out unrestrained in our world?  
What would we notice?

**P: The wilderness and the dry land would be glad; the deserts would rejoice and blossom.**

L: The blind would see and the lame would walk. Lepers would be cleansed, and the deaf would hear.

**P: The dead would rise and the poor would receive good news.**

L: May joy break out in our worship today as we anticipate the One who comes into our world!

**P: Come, thou long expected Jesus!**

## † Hymn

#100 GtG

“My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout”

## † Prayer for Humility

L: There are two great equalizers among us. One is that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory. The other is that we are all now justified by God's grace through the gift of Christ Jesus. Confident of both, let us admit where we have fallen short and receive grace without limit.

P: Holy and wonderful God, we confess that we have closed our eyes to what you are doing. We prefer to concentrate on problems, bad news and violence. When we do, we miss all the healing, freeing and helping you accomplish in our world. We pass up opportunities to participate in your Good News. We rob ourselves of so much joy. Forgive us and give us eyes to see, ears to hear, minds to understand, and hearts to treasure your mission in the world. Fill us with unquenchable joy at the coming of Jesus, the Christ. Amen.

*Silent confession.*

L: The angel told Joseph, “You are to name the baby Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Believe the good news of the gospel:

P: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen!**

† **Gloria Patri**

## **PROCLAIMING THE WORD**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

P: “O come, thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who orderest all things mightily:  
To us the path of knowledge show,  
And teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.”

## Children's Time

### Scripture Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10

p. 1111

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

P: **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 11:2-11

p. 1512

L: This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

P: **Christ's name be praised.**

### Sermon

Pastor Brenda

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**Special Music**      “When Emmanuel Has Come”      Choir  
*words by Nancy Price and Don Besig; music by Don Besig*

**† Responsive Hymn**      GtG #116  
“The Snow Lay on the Ground”

**Minute for Mission**      Shawn Dandoy, Elder  
Christmas Joy

### Time of Self-Offering with Offertory

### † Doxology

## † Prayer of Dedication

P: We thank you, God, for all the ways you work and heal and bless and free us. Accept these gifts given in great gratitude and in anticipation of Christ's return. Multiply them for your glory and for the good of all people. Amen.

## Prayers of the People with The Lord's Prayer

P: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## † Hymn

“In the Bulb There Is a Flower”

GtG #250

## † Benediction

## † Postlude

88 88 88